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ago, a

couple

of my

All Christians can celebrate Lent for a 'closer walk with Thee'

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley Pastor Kings Mountain write a Baptist Church

tion about the season of "Lent," so here it is. Most Baptist churches where I have served haven't cared much about Lent, and I have often encountered Baptists who

Sev- think that the practices of Ash Wednesday and other common Lenten activities merely "Catholic"

The fact is that the season c o 1 of Lent is observed by Christians in many different asked denominations, including me if I some Baptists, and it is actuwould ally an observance that has much to offer to those who meditahave a sincere desire to deepen their faith. Lent is a forty-day period (excluding Sundays) that begins on Ash Wednesday, which means that for 2009 it begins on February 25 and ends on April 11, which is the day

before Easter.

Churches that employ the so-called "liturgical colors" typically use the color purple during the season of Lent. This color reminds worshippers that Lent is a season of penitence and preparation. Like Advent is a season of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ, so Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. Both the birth and resurrection of Jesus are so important to the story of the Christian Gospel that a time of introspection and reflecour need for repentance should precede their celebration.

Lent gives worshippers the chance to think about their personal spiritual lives, to take stock of where they are in their spiritual growth, and to remember anew that they are sinners saved only by the grace of God. Coming as it does prior to Easter; it also gives believers the opportunity to remember the price that Christ paid for us on the cross, and to appreciate afresh the nature of God's love and grace.

Lent is rooted in the pretion on our sinfulness and baptismal practices of the

early Church, which typically took place prior to the celebration of Easter. During this time, new converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for their participation in the rite of baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, believers would imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness that took place after Jesus' own baptism and served as a time when Jesus defined for himself the sort of ministry that he was going to practice - a ministry centered in the coming Kingdom of God rather than in the establishment of some sort of earthly kingdom, which was actu-

ally what many of his fol-

lowers had expected from the Messiah.

Here in Kings Mountain several of our churches cooperatively support the importance of the season of Lent, and we also have several special cooperative Lenten Services that remind us that preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection is something that all Christians should consider important. Not every church observes Lent, of course, but however we do it; all believers should be mindful of the significance of Easter and would benefit from thoughtful self-reflection before celebrating on Easter Sunday.

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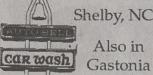
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To follow is a list of upcoming Churches of the Week. If your church is listed here and you have a special event that you would like listed on your feature week - please contact Lisa at 704-739-7496 or e-mail ads@kingsmountainherald.com

3/3 True Gospel Holiness 3/10 KM Baptist Church 3/17 Sunrise Baptist 3/24 Midview Baptist

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Bethlehem Baptist Church 1017 Bethlehem Road 704-739-7487

Boyce Memorial ARP Church Edgemont Drive 704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God 310 Long Branch Rd (KM) 704-739-2877

Calvary Way Holiness Church 1017 Second Street

Pastor Clifton Morgan Carson Memorial Baptist

262 Sparrow Springs Road 704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church 113 S. Piedmont Avenue

704-739-2471 Cherokee St. Baptist Church 421 S. Cherokee Street

704-739-7697 Chestnut Ridge Baptist

618 Chestnut Ridge Road 704-739-4015 Christian Freedom Southern

Baptist Church 246 Range Road 704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church 714 Stone Street 704-487-7697

Church Of Kings Mountain 303 Phifer Road

Featured Church of the Week

704-739-1323 Cornerstone Church Of God 202 Margrace Road 704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist 107 Range Road 704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist 125 Mayberry Lane 704-739-0310

David Baptist Church 2300 David Baptist Church Road 704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church 602 Dixon School Road 704-739-5536

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church 701 E. Gold Street 704-739-3215

East Kings Mountain Church of God Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM

Eastside Baptist Church 308 York Road 704-739-8055

704-739-7367

Ebenezer Baptist Church 1621 County Line Road

704-739-8331 El Bethel United Methodist Church 122 El-bethel Road

704-739-9174 Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church 602 Canterbury Road 704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church 1128 S. York Road 704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church 1009 Linwood Road 704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd. 704-739-1997

Family Worship Center 1818 Shelby Road 704-739-7206 First Baptist Church 605 W. King Street 704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene 121 Countryside Road 704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church 111 E. King Street 704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church 505 N. Piedmont Avenue 704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist 117 Galilee Church Road 704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church 202 S. Railroad Avenue 704-739-5351

Good Hope Presbyterian Church 105 N. Cansler Street 704-739-1062

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Grace United Methodist Church 830 Church Street

704-739-6000 Harvest Baptist Church

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number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next weeks paper.



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